

Chairman Waukau's Notes February 2002

Poso My Fellow Menominees:

It is indeed an honor for me to be elected your Chairman for this next administrative year. The Tribe bids a fond farewell to the three outgoing Legislators: Lew Boyd, Wilmer Peters, and Margaret Snow. I wish them well in all future endeavors. We have three new Legislators on the Council for the coming term: Gary Besaw, Tony Waupochick, and Joan Delabrue. These three people bring much to the Legislative table and I am expecting a very productive year with them on board. The Executive Committee is myself as Chair, Eugene Caldwell as Vice Chairman and Sylvia Wilber as Secretary and we are a veteran, bipartisan group of Legislators so we are expecting a seamless transition to replace the outgoing team.

As I said in my acceptance speech at the Reorganizational Meeting on February 9, the tribe, like the rest of the country, is experiencing an economic slump. Lumber sales are soft for MTE and the Casino is not making as much suniyan as we hoped. Therefore, I think it is only right that the Chairman's salary be reduced by \$15,000 and that we put the Vice-Chairman on an "on call basis". If we are going to be asking the Tribal programs to tighten their belts, than so should the Tribal Legislature.

The Chairman's Office has been very busy with the changeover in administrations. I have scheduled meetings with all upper level management personnel and arranged visits to all tribal programs for myself and for all new Legislators. It is important for everyone to understand that the gaming money that comes into the Tribe is only a small percentage of dollars supporting the Tribal operation. In fact, we have captured \$50 million dollars from grants and contracts to provide services to the Menominee people. With that amount of revenue coming into the tribe, it is necessary to run as sophisticated and as streamlined an operation as we can to safeguard those dollars and to spend those dollars in the most efficient manner.

I intend to run the Tribal government in an open and honest fashion. I will submit the Chairman's Notes monthly and will invite other Legislators to submit Legislative Notes to the Tribal News as well.

Please remember that good government depends upon the involvement of all the citizens. Come to the meetings and visit with your Tribal Legislators and let them know what your concerns are.

Sincerely,

Lisa Waukau
Honorable Tribal Chairman